



JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Vital Records
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February 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Johnson County Board of Health was held at the Johnson County Health Department on February 23rd 2022.

Those present from the board were Dr. James Pease, Chairman, Dr. Michael Pauszek, Tyler Klassen, Dr. Steven Stropes, and Ruth Freese. Those from the Health Department were, Dr. Qualls, Health Officer, Betsy Swearingen, Director, Bob Smith Cheryl Snider, Jennifer Warner and Lisa Brown.

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 am. Dr. Steven Stropes moved the minutes of the last meeting be approved and Dr. Pauszek second the motion. The minutes were approved.

Health Officer's Report:

Dr. Qualls reported the COVID restrictions at the schools have been relaxed. COVID counts, hospitalizations and deaths are going down.

The County has approved a new building for the Health Department that will also include the Coroner's office. It will be built on the vacant lot at Drake and Hospital Roads near Johnson Memorial Hospital. There have been several meetings between the Health Department, County Commissioners, Coroner and the architects. The building is going to be 18 thousand square feet with 9 thousand on each of 2 floors. There was some discussion on why we were building. Betsy stated the Health Department currently is paying about 5 thousand per month in rent. This new building will house two departments and possibly down the road, Planning and Zoning and Mapping. The fund which will be paying for it received a \$31 million payout to the County. These funds can only be used for certain items. It will be for 2 departments for the next 20-25 years and built on land the County already owns. In the long run it will be cheaper to build. The Coroner's office will have coolers and will do autopsies at this location.

Dr. Qualls has joined the Indiana Association of Public Health Officers. He would like to find out what other Health Officers are doing to bring their health departments to the forefront of the community. It is his hope the new building, new leadership and new ideas will advance opportunities in helping our community. Betsy has ideas such as housing codes and providing other services which have been prohibitive because of lack of funding.

Nursing:

Every spring, the nursing division host nursing students to help them experience public health. This covers the environmental side of things as well as nursing.

She reiterated Dr. Qualls statement that COVID case reports are going down. The schools have relaxed their guidelines and the schools are no longer required to report any COVID information to the Indiana State Department of Health. At this time, there are only 15 cases though out Johnson County.

Annie is doing a home visit for a lead level over 10 (11.4). A five year old moved here in December from Haiti and the lead level was most likely already elevated.

IDOH is working on reducing the lead reporting risk level from 10 to 5 and is projecting the levels in Johnson County to be less than 40 over the next 2 years.

There are currently no active TB cases in Johnson County. There are 19 latent cases of which one was from Camp Atterbury. All other cases moved to different counties or States.

Environmental Report:

Betsy reported Paul, Cassie and Jaycie have gone for inspection training for tattoo facilities at the Marion County Health Department. This training will help them learn what to watch for while inspecting these facilities. Within the last year there have been many facilities open in Johnson County. Micro-blading is the removal of hair such as eyebrows and are replaced with tattooed eyebrows. Due to the conditions nurses have had to work under during COVID many are going into third field and making much more than they were making as nurses. It is a very lucrative field right now.

There are approximately 20 building projects going up. Right now the concentration is in Edinburgh and Greenwood with work of improving the work relationship between the Health Department and Greenwood.

Randy retired at the end of 2021. He had a wealth of knowledge in the area of food as well as septic which will be missed. The three younger environmentalists are stepping up trying to learn and fill his shoes.

Betsy went to Council and ask to refill Randy's line item as she had to pay out for days he was losing. Both Randy and Bob are the last two who get a pay out when they leave. She also ask to boost the pay for the 4 senior inspectors as well as Miriam and Connie.

The Health Department has signed on for a grant from the Indiana Department of Health (IDH) to the amount of \$440,000. This grant asks us to put a liaison in the schools. The problem is the schools really do not want the liaisons. It was announced yesterday the testing sites will be closing June 30. It is hoped some of the vaccine clinic people can be phased into the liaison placement. It is also hoped to take one from the COVID clinic and fill a position in Vital Records. IDH had also requested to use some of the money to boost our vaccination rates as the last two years, vaccine rates have plunged.

Emergency Management:

We have signed the preparedness contract as well as the COAD and immunization grant.

Today is the first meeting in two years with long term care facilities regarding preparedness.

The EMS Task Force has met.

Preparedness is reaching out to two mental health groups. One is FSSA and the other is "Upstream Prevention" which is overdose prevention. We are now looking at fatality review. This entails accidental, purposeful drug overdose and suicide. We are also partnership with Johnson Memorial Hospital to build a twelve bed psychiatric facility. This project is still in the works.

Vital Records:

Cheryl reported statistics from last year. There were 5 child deaths, 88 communicable disease deaths, 46 deaths from drug overdoses and 24 suicides.

Breast Cancer:

As mentioned in the last meeting, we have received a \$10 thousand dollar grant for Breast Cancer Awareness. JoEllen has been going to St. Thomas Clinic to talk with women and setting up appointments if needed. This grant a multi county grant and Shelby County will be setting up a clinic also.

New Business:

Amanda reached out to Chelsea Grider to ask if she was she was going to be part of the Board as Chelsea has made only a few meetings. There was no response to Amanda. The question was raised if the board should start a search for a new board member. Paul Hass took the responsibility to find out what the process was to do that and what the rules of attendance were.

There was some discussion with Tyler Klausen about COVID guidelines and schools.

There was no new business and the meeting was closed.



Dr. James Pease Chairperson

Date